(c) and (d) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line at national and State level in rural and urban areas from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years and an exogenously defined poverty line. The State-specific rural poverty lines are updated using State-specific Consumer Price Index of Agricultural Labourers (CPIAL) and the State-specific urban poverty lines are updated using the State-specific Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers (CPIIW) following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group of Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor.

(e) Does not arise.

Food security authority

813. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up Food Security Authority to ensure availability of food to all and other matters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The required system of governance already in place is adequate to address the issues of Food Security.

Allocation of rice to Andhra Pradesh under TPDS

814. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rice allocated and lifted by the State of Andhra Pradesh under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that last year the allocation of rice to State has been reduced by 5,37,060 MT;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any request has been made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for restoration of the above quantity of rice; and

(e) if so, the details of the action Government has taken on this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Details on the quantities of rice allocated to Andhra Pradesh and its offtake by the State Government during the last 5 years are given in the Statement (*See* below). The allocation of foodgrains including rice under Targeted Public

Distribution System (TPDS) is made to all States/UTs for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by each State/UT, whichever is less. While allocations of foodgrains for BPL and AAY categories are made @35 kg per family per month for all 40.63 lakh families accepted as eligible in Andhra Pradesh, the allocations for Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made depending upon the availability of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Based on assessment of procurement of rice during KMS- - 2007-08, which was lower than overall demands from States for 2008-09, the allocations of rice for 2008-09 under APL category to Andhra Pradesh, have been done on the basis of its average offtake during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

The average annual offtake of APL rice in Andhra Pradesh during 2006-07 and 2007-08 was 15.76 lakh tons. Accordingly, the current year's normal allocation of APL rice has been issued at this leve/ *i.e.* 15.76 lakh tons per annum (1.31 lakh tons per month). Because of the norm of average offtake in last two years, allocation during current year has been lower than last year.

(d) and (e) The State Govt. has requested for restoration of APL rice allocation at the level of 2007-08. In view of constraints on availability of rice in the Central Pool, the request could not be agreed to. However, in view of higher procurement of rice in the State by end of Marketing Year 2007-08 and assurance by the State Government for higher procurement during KMS -2008-09, the Government has decided to make additional *adhoc* allocation of rice to the State at APL issue price as an incentive for the higher procurement. Accordingly, 26,000 tons of rice per month at APL rate have been issued to the State for October to December 2008.

Further, in order to check inflationary trends during festival season 2008, the Government has also released 50,000 tons of wheat for sale to retail consumers and 50,000 tons of wheat for sale to bulk consumers in the State during the months of September to November 2008 under Open Market Sale Scheme.

Statement

Details of allocation and offtake of rice under TPDS of Andhra Pradesh for the period 2003-2004 to 2007-2008

(In thousand tons)

Year	BPL+AAY	APL	Total	BPL+AAY	APL	Total
2003-2004	1,706.376	2,113.068	3,819.444	1,649.890	419.211	2,069.101
2004-2005	1,706.376	2,113.068	3,819.444	1,715.605	1,104.348	2,819.953
2005-2006	1,706.376	2,113.068	3,819.444	1,710.190	1,456.580	3,166.770
2006-2007	1,706.376	2,113.068	3,819.444	1,711.339	1,442.142	3,153.481
2007-2008	1,706.376	2,113.068	3,819.444	1,802.923	1,792.673	3,595.596